

REMARKS

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 15-17 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 15 recites the element "the terminating terminal." Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 14 recites the element "the several virtual lines." The Office Action asserted there is insufficient antecedent basis for the above elements.

The preamble of Claim 15 has been amended to recite "A network configured to convey data between at least two terminals, **the at least two terminals comprising an originating terminal and a terminating terminal,**" thus providing an antecedent basis for the element "the terminating terminal" that appears in the body of Claim 15.

With regard to Claim 14, applicants note that Claim 11, from which Claim 14 ultimately depends, recites "several virtual lines constituted by connections in multiplexed or non-multiplexed mode." Claim 14 has been amended to recite "the several virtual lines constituted by **connections in multiplexed or non-multiplexed mode . . .**." As a result, Claims 15 and 14, as amended, and Claims 16 and 17, which depend from Claim 15, overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection. Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 11 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,134,246, issued to Cai et al. While applicants disagree with the rejection, in order to advance the prosecution of the current application, independent Claims 11 and 15 have been amended to recite the adaptation unit configured to decompress the data in order to recreate the data from the originating terminal. Because Cai et al. fails to teach, disclose, or suggest the above feature, Claims 11 and 15 are submitted to be allowable over Cai et al. for at least that reason. Because Claims 16 and 17 depend from Claim 15, Claims 16 and 17 are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 15.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Cai et al. as applied to Claims 11 and 15 and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2006/0133386, issued to McCormack et al. Because Claim 20 depends from Claim 11 and Claim 21 depends from Claim 15, and because Claims 11 and 15 are submitted to be allowable, Claims 20 and 21 are submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as Claims 11 and 15, respectively, since McCormack et al. does not make up for the deficiencies of Cai et al. as discussed above in regard to Claims 11 and 15.

Claims 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Cai et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,339,488, issued to Beshai et al. Because Claims 12-14 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 11, which is submitted to be allowable, Claims 12-14 are also submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as Claim 11, since Beshai et al. does not make up for the deficiencies of Cai et al. as discussed above in regard to Claim 11.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Ahmed for allowing Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 18, and 19.

New Claims 22, 23, and 24

New Claims 22, 23, and 24 have been added in the present amendment. Because Claims 22, 23, and 24 recite subject matter similar to that of Claim 1, which is allowed, Claims 22, 23, and 24 are submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as Claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that all of the remaining claims in this application are allowable. Consequently, early and favorable action passing this application to issue is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any remaining questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact applicants' attorney at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}



Kevan L. Morgan
Registration No. 42,015
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1712

KLM:jmb